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CLAIMS

1. A method for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, comprising the steps of:

(a) conducting a sales transaction between buyer and a seller;

(b) generating an electronic receipt including information describing the purchase and including information indicating completion of the transaction;

(c) transmitting the receipt via a computer network to a computing device operated by the buyer, the buyer being presented via a hypermedia user interface of the device with a representation of the information describing the primary purchase, and a representation of the information indicating completion of the transaction;

(d) performing steps a, b and c for each of a plurality of transactions, no transaction of the plurality of transactions occurring between the same buyer and seller as any other transaction of the plurality of transactions; and

(e) storing in a centralized database a record of each receipt generated for each transaction of the plurality of transactions.

2. The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

generating aggregate information in response to stored receipts; and

providing the aggregate information to one of the sellers.

3. The method claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

one of the buyers remotely searching the centralized database in response to search criteria including limiting found records to those of receipts for transactions in which the one of the buyers participated;

retrieving the found records; and

transmitting representations of the found records to the one of the buyers.

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4.   The method claimed in claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

the one of the buyers adding information to a found record; and

associating the added information with the found record in the database.

5.   The method claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of the one of the

buyers downloading information in the found records to financial software as

indications of purchases.

6.   A system for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, comprising:

a server computer coupled to a hypermedia computer network, the server

computer including:

a receipt generator generating an electronic receipt in response

to indication of completion of a sales transaction between a buyer and a

seller, the receipt including information describing the purchase and

including information indicating completion of the transaction, the

receipt generator transmitting the receipt via the network to a

computing device operated by the buyer, the buyer being presented via

a hypermedia user interface of the device with a representation of the

information describing the primary purchase and a representation of

the information indicating completion of the transaction; and

a receipt handler responding to requests received via the

network from buyers and sellers; and

a database controlled by the receipt handler in which is storable a record of

each receipt generated for each of a plurality of transactions, no transaction of the

plurality of transactions occurring between the same buyer and seller as any other

transaction of the plurality of transactions.

7.   The system claimed in claim 6, wherein the receipt handler generates

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aggregate information in response to stored receipts and provides the aggregate information to one of the sellers.

8.   The system claimed in claim 6, wherein the receipt handler, in response to a query received from one of the buyers remotely searches the database in response to search criteria including limiting found records to those of receipts for transactions in which the one of the buyers participated, the receipt generator retrieving the found records and transmitting representations of the found records to the one of the buyers.

9.   The system claimed in claim 8, wherein the receipt handler receives additional information from the one of the buyers and associates the additional information with the found record in the database.

10.   The system claimed in claim 8, wherein the receipt handler responds to a request received from a buyer by downloading information in the found records to financial software as indications of purchases.

11.   A computer program product for collecting electronic receipts for purchases, the computer program product comprising a computer-usable medium carrying thereon:

    (a) means for conducting a sales transaction between buyer and a seller;

    (b) means for generating an electronic receipt including information describing the purchase and including information indicating completion of the transaction;

    (c) means for transmitting the receipt via a hypermedia computer network to a computing device operated by the first party, the buyer being presented via a hypermedia user interface of the device with a representation of the information describing the purchase, and a representation of the information indicating completion of the transaction; and

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(d) means for storing in a centralized database a record of each receipt generated for each transaction of a plurality of transactions, no transaction of the plurality of transactions occurring between the same buyer and seller as any other transaction of the plurality of transactions.

12. The computer program product claimed in claim 11, further comprising means for generating aggregate information in response to stored receipts and providing the aggregate information to one of the sellers.

13. The computer program product claimed in claim 11, further comprising search means for one of the buyers remotely searching the centralized database in response to search criteria including limiting found records to those of receipts for transactions in which the one of the buyers participated, retrieving the found records, and transmitting representations of the found records to the one of the buyers.

14. The computer program product claimed in claim 13, further comprising information adding means for the one of the buyers adding information to a found record and associating the added information with the found record in the database.

15. The computer program product claimed in claim 13, further comprising downloading means for downloading information in the found records to financial software as indications of purchases.